



**NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT**

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Scottsdale Stadium

2nd Floor Press Box

7408 E. Osborn Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Christine Schild, Chair
Patricia Badenoch, Commissioner
John Horwitz, Commissioner
Jeff Kidder, Commissioner
Jim Pompe, Commissioner

ABSENT: Aaron Kern, Vice-Chair

STAFF: Raun Keagy, Neighborhood Services Director
Joanie Mead, Neighborhood Education Manager

GUESTS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING:

Nancy Cantor, Former NEC Commissioner
Cristina Lenko, New NEC Commissioner
Bruce Mason, Former NEC Commissioner
Judy Register, Citizen & Neighborhood Resources
General Manager
Brent Stockwell, Assistant to Mayor and City Council
Nancy Wendorf, Former NEC Commissioner
Kit Weiss, Citizen & Neighborhood Resources Civic
Engagement Director

PUBLIC: Kathy Feld, Villa Monterey Homeowners Association

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Schild called the special meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. A roll call confirmed the presence of Commissioners as noted above.

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Mr. Keagy reported that he has been support staff for the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission since its inception. He explained that three former commissioners were in attendance to provide their perspective on where the Commission has been.

Mr. Keagy introduced staff members Judy Register, Kit Weiss, Brent Stockwell and Joanie Mead; and former Commissioners Nancy Cantor, Bruce Mason, and Nancy Wendorf.

Ms. Cantor explained that she was an original member of the Neighborhood Beautification Awards Committee. Mr. Keagy stated that she was one of the founding members that educated the community and city on the problems arising from neighborhood blight.

Mr. Keagy reported that Mr. Mason was a retired public administration professor from ASU. Mr. Mason pointed out that he was also a current member of the State Water Quality Appeals Board.

Mr. Keagy commented that the best quality about the Commission has been the variety of perspectives provided by its members.

Facilitator Introduction:

Mr. Stockwell reported that as of 4/20/07, Ms. Haskell will no longer be a Commission member and that her replacement, Ms. Lenko, would be joining the meeting after lunch.

Mr. Stockwell stated that he had been with the city since January 2002 and was currently the City Council's liaison to the Boards and Commissions. He assists with the process of recruitment, selection, and appointment of all members.

Mr. Stockwell pointed out that he just recently became City Council's liaison to the Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine. He explained that the Coalition was formed to address the crime impact of methamphetamines on communities and that most property crime was driven by meth users.

Mr. Stockwell reported that one of City Council's priorities was to work with communities in solving property crime issues and to initiate prevention programs through the school districts. Discussion ensued regarding drug use, crime resulting from drug use, and user demographics.

Mr. Stockwell stated that he was highly motivated to assist the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission and City Council in reaching its goals.

2. Historical Perspective of the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission—Discussion with former Commissioners.

Mr. Stockwell asked the former commissioners to introduce themselves and provide a summary of the Commission's greatest success during their term.

Historical Perspective and Greatest Successes:

Ms. Cantor stated that she has been a Scottsdale resident for 47 years and has been very involved with the Scottsdale schools. She was appointed by Mayor Drinkwater to the Neighborhood Beautification Awards Committee in 1987.

Ms. Cantor explained that the Committee was formed in order to address neighborhood blight issues before they began. She pointed out that the Committee's duties were taken over by the Scottsdale Pride Committee. Ms. Cantor recalled the annual trolley rides where members distributed t-shirts and thanked the citizens for cleaning up their neighborhoods.

Ms. Cantor reported that City Council's interest in neighborhood assemblage in the late 1980s resulted from the development of master planned communities. She stated that there was less emphasis on what to do with multiple subdivisions built close together along with gated and walled communities. Ms. Cantor elaborated that Council prepared a Neighborhood Assemblage Resolution in 1989 that was updated in 1993.

Ms. Cantor opined that bringing the Neighborhood Beautification Awards Committee to a full Commission and the creation of Code Enforcement to address neighborhood issues were the Commission's greatest successes.

She elaborated that initiating neighborhood service centers made the government body more user-friendly.

Ms. Cantor explained that they started long-lasting assistance such as the Graffiti Abatement Program, the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, the Hazardous Materials Disposal Program, the Resource Guide, and the Tool Trailer. She also discussed pockets parks created from city-owned land left over from widening Hayden Road.

Mr. Mason reported that the greatest success of the Commission was accomplished when they contributed money to a Saguaro High School teacher to assist students with beautification projects along the canal.

Mr. Mason liked the hard working qualities of staff and the good intentions of the Commissioners. He recalled the Commission's installation of a mirror at the driveway of the post office that has improved drivers' view of traffic when entering and exiting the parking lot.

Ms. Wendorf stated that she was a Senior Product Manager for General Dynamics Secor Systems, which does encryption of voice and data products for the United States government. She stated that originally she joined a committee called City Shape 2020 that was technically the strategic plan of the whole city.

Ms. Wendorf commented that when the opportunity arose to join the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission, she thought it would be a great way to continue her participation in dynamically changing neighborhood characterizations.

Ms. Wendorf reported that the Commission's major contribution was the fact that they strategically branched out beyond budgetary allotments for city

beautification. She stated that they assisted with defining the city's front yard parking ordinances and established the Commission's Bylaws.

Ms. Wendorf recalled that the Commission sought out partnerships within the city to initiate charity events along with furthering the mission and goals of the Commission.

Previous Actions or Mistakes/Not Recommended:

Mr. Stockwell requested that the former Commissioners elaborate on previous actions taken or mistakes made by the Commission that they would never recommend doing again.

Ms. Cantor emphasized problems that arose when dealing with gated communities. She explained that when the Commission dealt with planned community developments versus single-family homes, they found that there were homeowner associations within homeowners associations, making it hard to identify the responsible party for property maintenance.

Ms. Cantor recalled that they did assist some homeowners associations with gating their community for security purposes, and the outcome was some big mistakes and at least one great success. Mr. Mason agreed that some of the gating projects were necessary and turned out to be big successes.

Mr. Mason disagreed with money being disbursed to neighborhoods that could afford their own enhancements, in comparison to the needy single-family homes that received much less funding. He opined that the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission should educate people on how to enhance their landscaping before funding such projects.

Mr. Mason expressed his concerns about funding homeowners associations and noted that the Commission did not allow applicants to apply for funding two years in a row. He argued that enhancement should be broadly defined and address safety issues that affect the whole community rather than an individual homeowner.

Ms. Wendorf explained that the Commission could have been more involved in addressing signage trash resulting from the elections. She expressed her gratitude towards City Council for taking the communities' suggestions to heart by addressing this issue.

Great Ideas Discussed and/or Never Initiated:

Mr. Stockwell invited the former Commissioners to highlight previous ideas they liked which were never initiated.

Ms. Cantor recommended that all Boards and Commissions start working together. She pointed out that the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission should partner particularly with the Planning Commission to increase involvement in community planning.

Ms. Cantor noted that redevelopment issues are going to impact older neighborhoods that do not have the opportunity or voice to speak for themselves and the city does not have the communication tools to reach out to them.

Mr. Mason opined that the installation of more sidewalks and streetlights along with the reduction of plant encroachment would enhance Scottsdale. He pointed out that the city should design its own street signs in a manner that educates the public.

Ms. Wendorf stated that the Commission should create more internal strategic partnerships in order to make better use of staff, equipment, and supplies. She elaborated that seeing trends in the city such as increased speed bumps or gated communities reflects the public's safety concerns and working with the Police Department to provide citizens with free locks or safety inspections would provide people with big benefits at low costs.

Commissioner Discussion:

Mr. Stockwell invited current Commissioners to highlight issues discussed by the former Commissioners that struck a chord with them.

Commissioner Badenoch agreed with Ms. Wendorf's suggestion that the Commission partner with other Boards and Commissions. She also agreed with Ms. Cantor's comment regarding partnering with the Planning Commission on issues created by the impact of new developments on older neighborhoods.

Commissioner Horwitz noticed that budget size was not mentioned and argued that the Commission does not have enough of an impact on the community due to its small budget when compared to other organizations throughout the country. He recalled the unclear guidelines regarding the Commission accepting donations from businesses. Commissioner Horwitz pointed out that they have not reached high lofty goals when giving back to the community.

In response to Mr. Mason's inquiry regarding the acceptance of private donations for neighborhood enhancement, Commissioner Horwitz responded that the benefit to the community could be in terms of a specific event. Commissioner Horwitz clarified that private donations should be used for direct reinvestment in the citizens of the City of Scottsdale.

Commissioner Pompe stated that the Commission has only funded neighborhood enhancement projects to date and suggested that their talents be used to make a bigger impact. He agreed that the Commission should collaborate with business to get them involved and partner with the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Kidder highlighted the creation of the Tool Trailer and what has been accomplished since its inception. He expressed his interest in what it took to get the Tool Trailer in place.

Commissioner Kidder noted that as each five- or ten-year cycle goes by, the Commission would be seeing more homeowners associations from the older Scottsdale areas applying for funding. He agreed with Commissioner Horwitz' suggestion that the Commission find a way get business donations.

Chair Schild agreed with Commissioner Pompe's comments regarding the Commission having done nothing other than funding projects since the parking

ordinance was initiated. She stated that although they do have discussions on important issues, the Commission should be more proactive.

Chair Schild opined that the Commission's future should include addressing the citywide public safety issues that numerous previous applicants have discussed. She identified the following questions the Commission should determine:

1. What appropriate level of lighting, sidewalks, and landscaping would improve safety?
2. How do we address those issues through ordinances?
3. What recommendations can we make to Council to address safety issues on a wider basis?

Ms. Wendorf commented that they should create viable participative Neighborhood Watch groups to assist with the safety issues.

Mr. Stockwell suggested that they break for a 30-minute lunch to allow for further discussion with the guests before they had to leave. Mr. Keagy reported that Ms. Weiss was the Civic Engagement Director and would be able to address some of the issues that the Commissioners wanted to hear more about after lunch.

3. Review of Ordinance #2530 and Commission's Bylaws—Discussion regarding Commission's mission and focus.

Mr. Stockwell announced that Ms. Weiss would begin the discussion by providing an overview of the Citizen & Neighborhood Resources department and insight as to how they could assist the Commission.

Citizen & Neighborhood Resources:

Ms. Weiss explained that the Customer Service and Communications Division within Citizen & Neighborhood Resources has three main areas:

1. Answering the main call center telephone line as well as the non-emergency Police Department lines during primary hours. She stated that those divisions get to hear the public's questions and supply her department with pertinent information regarding neighborhoods about which they are concerned.
2. Run the Neighborhood Resource Centers located at the Granite Reef Senior Center and North Hualapai Water Center. She stated that they help citizens pay their utility bills, return library books, research job openings, and get passports. Ms. Weiss noted that they also schedule the use of the Tool Trailer at specific events and coordinate the roll off deployment.
3. Work closely with the Neighborhood Watch groups and the Police Department on safety programs and surveys. She reported that they also assist the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Citizen Liaison programs. Ms. Weiss explained that they initiate discussions with neighborhoods to gather feedback regarding potentially difficult issues such as speed bumps or traffic redesign.

Ms. Weiss invited the Commission to request any assistance necessary to accomplish their goals. She noted that their mediation program was being reformulated and they hope to have it up and running in the fall.

Review of Ordinance #2530:

Mr. Stockwell reported that in 1993 City Council defined the purpose statement for the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission as Ordinance #2530. He suggested that the Commissioners review the Ordinance to determine whether it reflects the Commission's current focus and whether it needs to be changed.

Mr. Stockwell summarized that the Ordinance describes the Commission's mission statement as having one purpose with two underlying goals:

Mission Statement:

"The Scottsdale Neighborhood Enhancement Commission will advise the City Council regarding the implementation of the city's Neighborhood Enhancement Program, **focusing on enhancing the long-term viability of Scottsdale's neighborhoods** ^(purpose) .

The Commission will **make recommendations to the City Council on specific programs, which are designed to prevent the decline and deterioration of neighborhoods by empowering the residents to help themselves** ^(goal #1) .

The Commission will review projects and concepts developed or proposed by the neighborhood enhancement coordinator, the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission, and by the citizens to **assure that they reflect the concerns of the neighborhoods and community** ^(goal #2) ."

Mr. Stockwell invited the Commissioners to discuss whether the mission statement reflects what their current goals are.

Commissioner Badenoch stated that the Commission was not providing enough recommendations to City Council as indicated in goal #1. Chair Schild argued that they do review projects to ensure they reflect the concerns of the residents as stated in goal #2.

Commissioner Horwitz commented that the mission statement was broad enough to encompass anything the Commission was doing, leaving it up to the members to decide what they want to accomplish. Commissioner Badenoch stated that she would like to know the parameters of the Commission's authority.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the mission statement gives the Commission sufficient authority to address unestablished or new developments in the city. Commissioners Pompe and Kidder pointed out that it only referred to existing neighborhoods.

Mr. Keagy elaborated on Commissioner Badenoch's initial comment, stating that she was asking whether it was possible to make recommendations on an individual project or activity that may impact one or two neighborhoods.

Chair Schild explained that the focus of the Commission was to enhance the long-term viability of Scottsdale's neighborhoods rather than to protect them.

Commissioner Horwitz recommended that they make suggestions that limit rather than broaden what the Commission does. The consensus of the Commission was to create specific goals to work towards.

In response to Commissioner Pompe's inquiry regarding changing the purpose of neighborhood enhancement to neighborhood advocacy, Commissioner Badenoch stated that she struggles with issues not pertinent to this Commission.

Commissioner Badenoch opined that the Commission was just a token gesture. Chair Schild agreed stating that other than funding projects, the Commission has only been approached to consult on other projects such as the R1-7 ordinance.

Mr. Stockwell stated that there seemed to be an agreement that the Ordinance stays the way it is. Commissioner Badenoch pointed out that they need to focus and act on it in a more proactive manner.

Review of Commission Bylaws:

Mr. Stockwell reported that the Bylaws are approved only by the Commission and are much more flexible since they do not have to go before City Council. He stated that the first purpose statements of the Bylaws match the Code and the remaining six purpose statements are more aspirational.

Mr. Stockwell invited the Commission to discuss whether the Bylaws need to be changed. Chair Schild pointed out that the Commission already addresses the seventh purpose "encourage neighborhoods to develop a sense of identity..." through the funding program.

Chair Schild stated that the funding process "encourages the building of unity within neighborhoods" as stated in the sixth purpose. She noted that the Commission has not necessarily "encouraged the building of unity between neighborhoods."

Commissioner Pompe recalled previous discussions regarding the Commission having not worked towards collaborative efforts with outside businesses. Commissioner Horwitz opined that the sixth purpose refers to working with citizens within our community.

Mr. Keagy reported that the Bylaws were developed and adopted in 1991. He explained that at that time they were more concerned with building neighborhood relationships and that was why the neighborhood matching fund program was not listed in the Bylaws. Mr. Keagy pointed out that was going initially be a staff function.

Ms. Cantor stated that the sixth, eighth, and ninth purposes need some fine-tuning to reflect the needs of today. She explained that when the Commission was initiated, they were involved in neighborhood area planning which was part of the General Plan. Ms. Cantor suggested that the Commission consider continuing their work on neighborhood area planning by working more closely with the Planning Commission.

Ms. Cantor reported that the “build neighborhood self-esteem” purpose was included to instill pride in where citizens live. She commented that when you discuss redevelopment and infill issues, the impact of property being assembled could negatively impact neighborhoods before the new development was built. Ms. Cantor pointed out that Code Enforcement was responsible to ensure that all property owners are living up to their end of the bargain.

Mr. Stockwell highlighted that the Commission has a pretty strong authority in Code Enforcement whose prime purpose was neighborhood preservation. He recommended that the Commission review the purposes and decide whether they have been acting them and if not, create a plan of action.

Mr. Stockwell opined that the Commission was not using its authority to the full extent. Ms. Cantor suggested that the Commission eliminate the purposes that no longer apply and replace them with ones that are more appropriate.

Commissioner Kidder suggested that rather than rewriting all of the purposes, staff should research similar organizations’ purposes to see whether they apply to this Commission and present them for consideration. He pointed out that the Commission has not done a good job addressing the Ordinance statement “empowering the residents to help themselves”.

Commissioner Kidder stated that individual owners have not been educated to know that they can ask for assistance and funding for beautification. He argued that the Commission should empower individual owners to feel comfortable enough to ask for assistance.

Commissioner Pompe’s requested a discussion on whether the Commission was properly addressing purpose nine, “improved communication between the community and the city through support of the Citizen Service Center.”

Chair Schild reported that since the Citizen Service Centers have been taken over by the city, the Commission no longer actively discusses or participates in their efforts. Ms. Cantor explained that it was easier to communicate with homeowners associations and groups rather than individuals.

Mr. Stockwell reminded the Commission that their role in purpose nine was to review projects and proposed developments to ensure that they reflect the concerns of the neighborhoods in the community.

Chair Schild elaborated that whenever City Council debates issues that impact neighborhoods, a majority usually states that their first priority is health, safety, welfare and viability of neighborhoods. She inquired whether purpose eight should be changed.

Mr. Stockwell announced the arrival of the Commission’s newest Member Cristina Lenko and suggested that they continue the discussion at the end of retreat. He invited Ms. Lenko to introduce herself.

Ms. Lenko reported that she has lived in Scottsdale for the past 14 years and started working as a consultant for city and local government approximately seven years

ago. She stated that when her term on the Scottsdale Pride Committee ended last year, she thought that the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission would be an excellent fit.

The current Neighborhood Enhancement Commission members and supporting staff provided a short description about themselves and why they were involved with the Commission.

Ms. Feld reported that she has lived in Scottsdale for 25 years and was the spokesperson for the Villa Monterey Homeowners Association. She pointed out that she was just an observer at this very valuable meeting.

4. Comparison of past and present successes and areas for improvement.

Mr. Stockwell requested that everyone take five minutes and write down in ten words or less, 3-5 top activities the Commission should focus on during the next fiscal year. He pointed out that they should write each idea including an action word on an individual piece of paper for prioritization during the discussion.

**SUGGESTED COMMISSION ACTIVITIES TO FOCUS ON
DURING THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR**

1. Protection of neighborhoods by staying ahead of development with knowledge and communicating with other Commissions
2. Interface with other Commissions
3. Collaborate with other Commissions and Boards
4. Work more closely with other Boards/Commissions (communicate)
5. Work closely with the Planning Commission on the neighborhood planning process
6. Participate in neighborhood planning process
7. Develop safety through Environmental Design (street lighting guidelines)
8. Create citywide "public view" maintenance program (streetscapes, outer walls, etc.)
9. Create neighborhood "spring cleaning" program with city assistance
10. One-on-one outreach in neighborhoods
11. Outreach through education
12. Get word of NEC out to the non-HOA neighborhoods
13. Ride the trolley—meet and greet the public to inform them of the NEC
14. Get more \$ for grant program
15. Collaborate with businesses to help fund projects in their area
16. Seek a larger budget for outreach
17. Work on community understanding of smart growth/plus
18. Explore enhancement qualities and encouragement for affordable housing
19. Explore ways to encourage more vegetation especially trees, as we see the direction of xeriscape
20. Continue giving money to communities for improvement
21. Continue supporting neighborhoods with our funding
22. Empower and help individuals to go through grant program
23. Take a ride with Code Enforcement to see the issues firsthand
24. Identify unsafe areas in town
25. Help individuals in neighborhoods

Mr. Stockwell announced that once the Commissioners and guest read his or her top suggestion aloud, he would direct them towards organizing their most important collective ideas.

In response to Mr. Stockwell's inquiry regarding which suggestions were similar, Chair Schild stated that communicating with other Commissions seemed foremost.

Mr. Stockwell pointed out that empowering individuals to go through the grant process should include empowering neighborhoods.

In response to Mr. Stockwell's inquiry regarding develop safety through Environmental Design, Chair Schild opined that they should develop city-wide public view maintenance and neighborhood spring-cleaning programs.

Ms. Cantor pointed out that explore enhancement qualities and encouragement for affordable housing would relate more to individually owned houses.

In response to Mr. Stockwell's inquiry regarding one-on-one outreach in neighborhoods, the Commissioners agreed that getting the word out to non-HOA neighborhoods and riding the trolley to meet and greet the public to inform them of their program all went together.

The consensus of the Commission was to group together the suggestions regarding more funding for the grant program, seek a larger budget for outreach, and collaborating with businesses to help fund projects.

Mr. Stockwell reported that they now have seven top categories to work with:

1. Identify specific projects to work on over the next year
2. Develop safety through environmental design
3. Create citywide public view maintenance programs
4. Create neighborhood spring cleaning programs with city assistance
5. Identify unsafe areas of town
6. Explore ways to encourage more vegetation especially trees
7. Collaborate with other Commissions and Boards

Mr. Stockwell directed the Commissioners to review the newly organized suggestions in order to select the top suggestion from each category. He pointed out that they should end up with a consensus on at least five items to prioritize as future goals.

Chair Schild reminded everyone that they did not agendaize any action items and there would be no voting during the meeting.

Ms. Cantor suggested that staff obtain a copy of the CityShape 2020 report for the Commissioners' review.

5. Discussion of Commission's purpose and future goals, and determine priorities.

Mr. Stockwell invited the Commissioners to begin discussing which goals are more realistic in order to determine their new priorities. He pointed out that outreach and

promoting visibility seemed to already be one of the top five suggestions on which to focus.

Chair Schild reported that over the past 1½ years the Commission has been actively engaged in outreach and promoting visibility by attending GAIN and Scottsdale Center for the Arts events, along with attending neighborhood canvassing/picnics and City Council meetings.

Ms. Lenko recommended that they continue outreach and possibly rotate meeting locations and invite neighborhoods to attend the meetings. Chair Schild reported that they already started rotating their grant meeting locations and would consider rotating regular meeting locations. Ms. Cantor suggested that they provide notification of the meetings to the school boards and homeowner newsletters.

Mr. Stockwell invited the Commissioners to pick suggestions that fit within the Commission's top 3-5 priorities.

The consensus of the Commission was to promote the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission's visibility.

Mr. Stockwell highlighted the suggestions regarding creating new programs. He suggested that when addressing perceived problems the Commission should gather information and then design a program or strategy to address them.

Discussion ensued regarding commonalities between the suggested programs and/or issues they pertain to. Chair Schild pointed out that safety and maintenance seemed to be prevalent issues.

Commissioner Badenoch stated that they already have a Rock the House program that promotes the installation of gravel and recommended that they create a program that plants trees for shade in order to create a balance and clean the air.

Chair Schild pointed out that there was already a city tree-planting program. Mr. Keagy explained that the program only related to trees located on city property for shading sidewalks and not trees located close to homes.

Mr. Stockwell suggested that the Commission consider exploring the creation of a program to empower residents to help themselves with regards to this issue.

Discussion followed regarding the importance of promoting safety and maintenance. Mr. Stockwell recommended that the Commission focus on improving the safety of neighborhoods through physical enhancements. Commissioner Horwitz suggested that they keep it more general.

The consensus of the Commission was to identify specific projects to work on over the year related to neighborhood safety.

Chair Schild recommended that the discussion on the specifics of how to address safety issues be added to a future agenda. Mr. Stockwell agreed, stating that they should gather information on the current conditions of neighborhoods and prepare a strategy for addressing the safety issue.

Ms. Cantor reminded the Commissioners that safety issues increase when the number of people living in a small area increases.

In response to Mr. Stockwell's inquiry regarding partnering with the Planning Commission as they move forward with the General Plan, Commissioner Badenoch and Ms. Cantor agreed that the suggestion should be one of the Commission's top goals.

Chair Schild recalled previous discussions about working with other Boards and Commissions in order to participate in the neighborhood planning process. She suggested that aligning with other Boards and Commissions should be the initial goal and planning process participation could dovetail onto that.

Ms. Cantor suggested that the Commission appoint a representative to be part of the future Planning Commission team that would work with the communities on key issues impacting their neighborhoods. Ms. Lenko commented that it was a great idea that would tie in with promoting the Commission's visibility.

Mr. Keagy suggested that they explore working with all Boards and Commissions on issues and activities that impact neighborhoods. Ms. Cantor pointed out that none of the other Boards and Commissions are currently involved in the planning process.

In response to Ms. Cantor's inquiry regarding whether there was a mechanism in the city charter allowing Boards and Commissions to work closely together, Mr. Stockwell explained that City Council could recommend that certain groups work together on a specific issue.

Chair Schild pointed out that new developments create problems in neighborhoods as a result of increased traffic and tourism. Mr. Stockwell suggested that the Commission study key issues impacting neighborhoods that are being studied by other groups.

Ms. Feld reported that the homeowners associations do not have a vehicle to reach out and do not have any help dealing with neighborhood issues. She suggested that the Commission create an outreach program to educate citizens on where to get assistance with their issues with the city.

Ms. Feld stated that other Commissioners have told her that traffic and development issues were not their focus and that was probably why they are not reaching out to other Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Stockwell explained that City Council receives enormous input from a variety of sources and it was the role of staff to seek out input from citizens that are underrepresented. He pointed out that Boards and Commissions were not the only way to get assistance and suggested that Ms. Feld get together with Ms. Weiss to get assistance from staff.

Chair Schild remarked that if the Committee may decide that one of their roles was to serve as mediator between the city and its citizens.

Mr. Stockwell suggested that they prepare a list of specific issues the Commission would like to focus on and possibly arrange future speaker presentations to become more informed.

Ms. Feld argued that since they are called the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission, maybe they should be considered the vehicle for outreach. She suggested that they create neighborhood enhancement communities for educating citizens.

Mr. Stockwell expressed his concern that the Commission was trying to do everything at one time and suggested that they continue the discussion by pointing out which remaining suggestions were worthy to be included in the future goals of the Commission.

Discussion followed regarding identifying specific projects to work on throughout the next year, confirming that affordable housing was more of an ordinance issue.

The consensus of the Commission was to study key issues impacting neighborhoods that are being addressed by other Boards and Commissions.

In response to Mr. Stockwell's inquiry regarding the suggestion to take a ride with Code Enforcement to see issues first hand, Chair Schild stated that it could go under studying key issues or identifying specific projects related to public safety.

Mr. Stockwell pointed out that such an activity would also promote the Commission's visibility. Commissioner Pompe agreed and suggested that it be included in the top goals.

The consensus of the Commission was to take a ride with Code Enforcement and see issues firsthand.

In response to Mr. Stockwell's inquiry regarding protection of neighborhoods by staying ahead of development with knowledge and communicating with other Commissions, Chair Schild argued that the suggestion related to more of an advocacy role and does not fall within the Commission's purview.

Mr. Stockwell reported that the suggestion fit under the purview of some of the other Boards and Commissions and may not be considered a top goal. Ms. Feld clarified that she made the suggestion to improve communication with other Commissions.

In response to Mr. Stockwell's inquiry regarding the suggestion to seek a larger budget for outreach, Ms. Cantor confirmed that the Commission's budget should be large enough to incorporate the grant partnership with outreach/communication to the neighborhoods.

Discussion ensued regarding increasing funding to reach individual homeowners and to provide increased funding to the public. Mr. Stockwell suggested that the Commission better understand the city's current outreach efforts before making any funding or outreach recommendations.

Chair Schild summarized that Mr. Stockwell was suggesting that the Commission create an overview of the city's current outreach efforts as they relate to neighborhoods before deciding which recommendations should be made to City Council on how to improve outreach including the possibility of budgetary recommendations.

Mr. Keagy pointed out that outreach funding was different than grant funding and suggested that the Commission clarify their definition of outreach before making any recommendations.

Mr. Stockwell recommended that the Commission come up with one idea that encapsulates the suggestions to empower individuals going through the grant process, continuing to support neighborhoods with funding, continue giving money to communities for improvement, and more dollars for grant programs.

Discussion ensued regarding identifying specific projects, the structure of the grant funding program, and what would support a request for additional funding. Chair Schild and Commissioner Horwitz argued that the Commission should advocate that City Council authorize additional funding for projects aside from the grant program.

Ms. Weiss pointed out that the city might have existing programs that already address the outreach issues. Commissioner Horwitz suggested that they request more funding for grant and other programs.

In response to Commissioner Kidder's inquiry regarding applicants being turned down because there was less funding, Chair Schild responded that previously homeowners associations were limited to receiving \$2,500.

Mr. Stockwell explained that the Commission obviously wants more people to go through the funding process in order to make a bigger impact on neighborhoods and needs to come up with a justification for more funding.

The consensus of the Commission was to get more funds to expand grant and other programs.

Mr. Stockwell reported that the Commission deemed the following top five goals listed in order of priority:

- 1. Study Key Issues Impacting Neighborhoods that are being addressed by other Boards and Commissions.**
- 2. Take a ride with Code Enforcement and see issues first hand.**
- 3. Promote the Commission's visibility.**
- 4. Identify specific projects to work on over the year related to neighborhood safety.**
- 5. Get more funds to expand grant and other programs.**

In response to Mr. Stockwell's inquiry regarding the top five goal results being sufficient for the Commission to address Section 2-324 of Ordinance No. 2530, all Commissioners agreed with his synopsis of the discussion.

Mr. Stockwell recommended that the Commission prepare an action plan to be added to an upcoming agenda along with a discussion on any other discrepancies in the Bylaws.

6. Discussion of Commission's project funding

Commissioner Horwitz argued that the most important issue for the Commission was the need for more grant money. Chair Schild reported that the funding was cut in half in early 2003.

Mr. Stockwell explained that the current Commission budget was \$75,000 and they have requested that an additional \$25,000 be added for the next fiscal year. He suggested that they table the discussion until the Commission's May meeting.

7. Staff and Commission Updates (A.R.S. § 38-431.02 (K)).

Ms. Mead presented Personal Interest Disclosure forms and requested that the Commissioners fill them out and return them to her before the end of the meeting. She invited members to take a copy of the Commission Roster for future reference.

Ms. Mead invited everyone to take an "I Love Scottsdale" t-shirt with them when they leave the meeting.

8. Open Call to the Public (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Ms. Feld thanked everyone for including her in the discussions. She stated that everyone seemed to be aware of the Chaparral substation issue and noted that she was open to any suggestions on where to get assistance with the problem.

Ms. Feld reported that the substation location would be determined in 2-3 weeks and the widening of Chaparral Road would be starting soon. She explained that her homeowners association already approached Historic Preservation regarding the issues they are facing.

Ms. Feld remarked that she now has a better understanding of what this Commission was about. She suggested that they consider creating a neighborhood enhancement community to educate citizens and increase participation in the NEP grant program.

9. Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items

Ms. Mead reported that the next meeting was scheduled for May 9, 2007. She suggested that a presentation by an original Commissioner, Marilyn Armstrong, be agendaized for the May meeting so she can share her historical information.

Ms. Mead reported that Chair Schild had a conflict with the June grant approval meeting date. She suggested that the meeting be rescheduled to June 13, 2007 to ensure that the NEP program cases are ready to go before City Council's July meeting.

Mr. Stockwell pointed out that they would need to get their submissions in before June 25, 2007.

Discussion ensued regarding changing the June meeting to June 7, 2007 or June 13, 2007. Chair Schild suggested June 7, 2007 to allow time for a special meeting if necessary to discuss the NEP cases.

Ms. Mead agreed to confirm the City Council meeting date and would add the discussion to May's agenda.

Chair Schild requested that a review of the action plan and bylaws be included on May's agenda, along with an invitation to Marilyn Armstrong to attend the meeting.

Commission members thanked Mr. Stockwell for being their retreat facilitator.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
AV-Tronics, Inc.